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SLICK NEGRO SWINDLER.

How He Bamboozled Rock Hill Dakey—Old Trick Cleverly Worked.

Rock Hill, July 7.—Peter Jones, a well-to-do negro farmer, living about two miles from Rock Hill on the Cherry road, is a victim of a well planned confidence game, and the Cross Roads (colored) Baptist church treasury is minus \$240, as a result.

A few days ago a negro man, rather well dressed and of a ministerial appearance, made the acquaintance of the Cross Roads neighborhood and introduced himself as Rt. Rev. George Washington Moore, of Columbia. He was welcomed into the home of Peter Jones, treasurer of the church, and for several days administered spiritual needs to the family. Feeling indisposed the second Sunday after his arrival, he remained at the house while Jones and his family went to worship. On returning Jones was astounded to learn that gold, in large nuggets, had been found on the place by Rev. Moore. He stated that during their absence he strolled around the farm and accidentally discovered the gold, but as it was not his, he would not touch it until their return that night. Moore suggested that they go at once for the treasure, but cautioned that he would have to "conjure the spirits" before it could be found, whereupon the Jones' decided to wait until daylight. Early next morning, after gathering necessary articles, gobslets, a Bible, some vinegar and cotton, picks and spades the party started in search of the hidden treasure led by Moore who carried an instrument that he claimed would locate it. The place was found and all were cautioned to be quiet, and not a word was to be spoken lest the "spell of the spirits" be broken.

With everything quiet and solemn, not a sound to be heard except the turning of the leaves of the Bible, Rev. Moore assumed a serious expression, mumbling strange and mysterious words, between weird moans and groans, while he placed the gobslets over the hidden treasure. He then poured vinegar in each glass, and had the negroes stuff cotton in their ears, so that no sound might enter, and placed a large piece of cotton in the center of the space around which the glasses were placed. He then poured on a dark liquid which he stated would "annoint the spirits," and tossed a match into the mystic square. A flash and dense smoke followed—all was agreeable with the "spirits." Digging with a vim and soon nuggets of yellow metal, having the appearance and weight of gold were unearthed. With eyes bulging and tongues paralyzed in excitement, nervous hands brought forth the treasure.

The Rev. Moore prepared the bullion for shipment by express to the treasury department at Washington. While waiting for an answer from Washington the preacher was a much honored guest of the Jones'. The letter came after due time, was allowed for its return. The amount due the negroes was given. The negroes were then informed that in order to get the money from Washington he must send money to an official in Columbia, and that he would require a certain per cent for his share. Treasurer Jones having no money of his own, willingly drew from the church treasury \$240 for the purpose. The money was placed in a return envelope and mailed in Rock Hill, Moore doing the mailing.

Every one concerned was jubilant, and a great feast was to be held that night at Jones'. Moore was to be the honor guest. He went to Charlotte to get his fiancée to help enjoy it. The feast was prepared and eaten but Right Rev. Geo. Washington Moore failed to return. The uncalled for envelope came back, filled with scrap paper.

This same scheme has been worked in other sections of the county, it is said, supposedly by the same negro, and officers are on the alert for one. Rev. Geo. Washington Moore of a very dark hue, aged about 40 years, and about 5 feet 10 inches in height.

Mr. Timothy Bowen.

Mr. Timothy Bowen died at his home near May on the 13th and was buried at Mt. Cavalry on the 14th. Rev. J. A. Langley conducting the funeral services. For many years Mr. Bowen operated a farm for Mr. J. R. Regan, about five miles east of Dillon. Last year he was with Mr. Jno. Hugh Stackhouse near Floydale. The first of the year he moved to May where he was operating a farm for S. D. one. Mr. Bowen was a hard working, honest, industrious farmer and had the respect and esteem of all who knew him. His death was caused by a complication of typhoid fever and Bright's disease. Mr. Bowen was about 60 years old, and he leaves a wife and seven children. His funeral was attended by a large number of friends and acquaintances. For many years he was an active member of Mt. Cavalry church and was for a long time superintendent of the Sunday school.

Sand Lugs Not Wanted.

If the tobacco planters of South Carolina are to realize finally the benefits from their cutting of acreage this year, they must now exert every effort on good curing and careful culling of their crop," says Mr. T. Benton Young, secretary of the South Carolina Tobacco Association, speaking for the growers, for the South Carolina Warehousemen's Association, and for the buyers association. "We are dependent this year, absolutely, on the old line buyers, because the independent buyers are not able to make the financial arrangements to operate. The buyers have indicated that they will do their best by the growers, and pay as much money for good tobacco as they can possibly pay. But they are demanding of the growers that the growers shall offer only good stuff."

Through the various associations of the different interests of the industry, the extension service of the state has been interested in the situation, and is aiding in spreading information regarding it. Over the signature of Dr. W. W. Long, director, 15,000 letters are being mailed to individual growers in every section of the tobacco belt.

Important points stressed in this letter are as follows:

First: It will be useless waste of time and money to harvest the lower "plant bed" leaves or inferior lugs. Of course this does not mean that none of the lower leaves are desirable, but the cheap trashy leaves and such leaves as become burnt would best be left in the field for manure, as we can not hope for them to bring cost of curing and handling. Some think that such grades will not even get a "bid" on the warehouse floor. About this we do not know, but we do know that such goods, if sold, will only stand out statistically against the farmer and make prices lower next season.

Second. We get from good sources that this year it will be absolutely necessary for the farmer to let his tobacco get ripe before gathering. The green grades which have been selling well in the past are apt to be a drag on the market. These grades have been exported in the past, but the foreign market is in such shape that you cannot depend on it. If the hands or "croppers" pull some green leaves, cull them out from the curing before marketing. At the end of the season, after having had them bulked down, market these green leaves from all your curings.

Mr. Bright Williamson of Darlington, president of the South Carolina Tobacco Association, is making every possible effort to induce the companies to come into the market July 19, when it opens, with all buyers in all markets and taking all grades. He is handling this matter through T. H. Carrington, of Washington, D. C., president of the United States Tobacco Association. Such an opening would tend to establish proper prices, Mr. Williamson believes.

Highway Meeting Tomorrow.

Every person interested in the Calhoun Highway movement is urged to attend a meeting at the Court House tomorrow (Friday) at 11 o'clock. The Calhoun Highway is coming by Dillon. It is something that has been handed to Dillon on a silver platter, and the object of the meeting tomorrow is not to ask for funds or increase taxes, but to meet a scouting party from Atlanta, Birmingham and other western cities and agree upon a route out from Dillon to Wilmington. The route has been secured to Dillon, and it is up to the Dillon people to map the route from Dillon to the North Carolina line. There are several suggested routes. One is by way of Lake View, another by way of Worth Burns and the other by way of Rowland and Fairmont. Dillon is building a good road to the North Carolina line by way of Hamer and Robeson in building a good road by way of Rowland to the state line. A good road is also being built from Fairmont to the state line by Worth Burns' place.

The object of tomorrow's meeting is to meet the scouting party and agree on a route out of Dillon county. The party will arrive in automobiles tomorrow morning and the meeting will be held in the court house promptly at 11 o'clock. Let every person interested in good roads development in the county be present.

Commissioner Adams Resigns.

At the last meeting of the County Commissioners Mr. J. C. Adams tendered his resignation as superintendent of the county's affairs. Mr. Adams has been with the county for nearly two years and has done some very efficient work during his administration. He leaves the employ of the county to go with the Farmers Tobacco Warehouse. Mr. Adams is succeeded by Mr. Geo. Bond who will have charge of the road work and other outside matters. Mr. Bond is a splendid business man and it is a foregone conclusion that he will give the county a good administration.

HARD TIMES IN SOUTH

Congressman Makes Trip and Report Says He's "Certain that a Large Part of the People Are Underfed."

Washington, July 1.—Returning here today from an inspection trip through North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, Representative Summers, Texas, chairman of an agricultural sub-committee investigating the cotton situation, declared in a statement that the poor farmers were having a hard time getting food for their families and stock, and that he was certain a large part of the people were underfed.

"I have talked to farmers, country merchants, country bankers, wholesale merchants, city bankers, cotton merchants, exporters, cotton manufacturers and exporters of cotton goods. The condition is about as I expected to find it. The people are doing their best, with very little complaining, considering their circumstances. Most of the country banks have practically suspended loaning and merchants are selling very little, either on credit or for cash. The poor farmers are having a hard time getting food for their families and their animals. I am certain that a large part of the people are underfed."

Mr. Summers declined to express an opinion as to remedial measures, except to say that agriculture must be given emergency relief.

"I do not believe that we can overestimate the gravity of the situation which will develop when the new crop comes on the market," he added, "unless an extraordinary effort is made in advance of that time to strengthen the position of agriculture. If we can get by this next marketing period without too many failures and too much agricultural distress, the gradual return to normal world conditions will make easier the solution of our agricultural and other domestic problems, but if we permit our farmers and country banks to fail this fall we may expect years of depression and industrial and political discord."

Fork

Mrs. W. F. McNeil and son Willie are visiting relatives at Dublin, N. C. Miss Lena Taylor of Nichols is the guest of Mrs. Colon Edwards.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Fort, Mrs. Ruby Fort Carmichael and Mrs. O. B. Johnson spent Friday at Rowland, N. C., with Dr. and Mrs. T. W. Carmichael.

Mrs. Maxy Adams and baby of Dillon spent a few days last week with Mrs. S. A. Owens.

Mrs. Boyd Edwards and children of Marion spent Wednesday with Mrs. Melton Rogers.

Miss Ora Rogers, Mrs. J. O. Rogers and Misses Alma and Kathleen Rogers spent the week end at Myrtle Beach.

Mr. C. E. Taylor is visiting relatives at Melrose, Va.

Elberry.

John C. Allen has about completed his handsome residence on the road leading from Elberry to Latta. There was a dead man found on Tracey E. Fore's Brown's Creek plantation last Friday. The coroner was promptly called and an inquest held. The verdict was that he came to his death by lightning striking him. The negro proved to be Jim Fulton from Latta.

News was received here Saturday afternoon that Miss Cora Allen of Brownsville was dead.

Mrs. D. L. Cottingham returned to her home in Savannah last week.

Miss Thelma Hayes is visiting Mrs. O. M. Hamer of Bennettsville. She will visit friends at Tatum and Cllo before returning home.

Mr. and Mrs. Emerson Ard of Henningway were calling on relatives in this section last Sunday. Mrs. Ard is pleasantly remembered here as Miss Louise Fore.

Theo and Calhoun Hayes who won scholarships to the short courses at Clemson College left here Monday A. M. for Clemson.

Mr. Eugene Williams and mother, Mrs. J. L. Williams of Mallory were calling on friends here Friday.

Miss Etta Sue Sellers of Latta was in this section Monday looking after the interests of her work.

Messrs. P. A. George and R. J. Dew were hosts to about sixty friends on July 5th at a very enjoyable fish fry at Mill Creek. The guests departed late in the afternoon all voting Messrs. Dew and George as wide awake hosts.

The following gentlemen went to Columbia Friday on important business: J. D. Coleman, T. E. Berry, Tracey E. Fore, C. P. Hodges, John C. Hayes, H. L. Tillman and T. L. Fore.

Misses Marie and Vera Newton of Tatum returned to their home Sunday afternoon after spending several days here with relatives.

Oak Grove.

Messrs. T. E. Fore, T. E. Berry, Jno. Hayes, J. D. Coleman and C. P. Hodges went to Columbia last Friday to represent the citizens living along the route of the Bennettsville and Cheraw railroad from Bennettsville to Sellers in a hearing before the railroad commissioners on the question of discontinuing the road from Brownsville to Sellers. The rail road

DILLON EVANGELIST HOLDS FINE MEETING.

Rev. E. G. Caldwell Close, Big Meeting in Hampton County.

The following from the Hampton Guardian will be read with interest by many Dillon folk:

One of the greatest revival meetings ever held in Hampton county commenced at Varnville, S. C., on June 17th and closed on June 26th. This meeting was conducted by Rev. Edd Caldwell of Dillon, S. C., and Mr. D. L. Maness, evangelistic singer of Chicago conducted the music. The meeting was hindered some by the rain, but in spite of all hindrances it was a most glorious revival. About one hundred professed conversions. Six joined the Methodist church, two the Baptist, and one the Missionary.

Rev. Caldwell is only 23 years old, and is now devoting himself to evangelistic work. It is predicted that he will become one of the greatest preachers the country has ever known. At the close of the meeting Rev. Gobe Smith, pastor of the Varnville church asked everybody to stand who wanted Rev. Caldwell and Brother Maness to come back next year. Everybody stood up. Brother Maness is a very fine singer with a great deal of expression. His solos were especially enjoyed by everybody who heard him.

This community heartily recommends these two noble young men to all pastors who are looking for help in their revival meetings.

DILLON MAN CHARGED WITH SERIOUS CRIME.

W. H. L. McLaurin Held by N. C. Authorities, for Alleged Assault.

W. H. L. McLaurin, former Dillon county citizen and ex-minister, is held by Charlotte authorities charged with assault upon several little girls. The grand jury has returned a true bill against McLaurin, and he is being kept in hiding until his case is called for trial. McLaurin disappeared from Dillon county some ten years ago after being charged with immoral conduct. He went to Florida and it is said that he repeated the offense in that state and served a term in prison. He is prominently connected in the county and the news of his third offense has caused considerable comment. He is a man of more than average intelligence and for many years stood high in the South Carolina Conference. He has served churches in this section with ability. It is generally conceded that McLaurin is suffering from some derangement of the mind. McLaurin is a native of North Carolina but made his home in this county for many years.

The following comment on his case is taken from Saturday's issue of The Charlotte Observer:

A true bill has been returned against W. H. L. McLaurin, white, who several weeks ago was given a preliminary hearing before the recorder, based on the statements of a number of little girls, three in all, that he had taken them out riding and had attempted criminal assault.

McLaurin was arrested and where he is being kept is not known, according to statements made by officials here. The criminal docket indicated that McLaurin was indicted on the criminal assault charge, and the findings of the grand jury, as announced by the deputy clerk, are that true bills have been returned.

Pee Dee Park.

On my way to church the other Sunday we saw on the gate of the Park: "Closed on Sunday!" Well, I took a good long breath and breathed this prayer, "God bless the owner" who sees something else in life besides money. "Closed on Sunday!" What a powerful sermon that was to those who desecrate the Sabbath and incarcerate themselves.

E. C. B.

officials claim that they are losing money on this joint of the road and that the amount of freight being shipped in and shipped out does not justify them in operating the road.

It was not definitely decided as to what the rail road commission would do in the matter, but it was intimated that an extension would be granted till the first of January next during which time the people living along the route are expected to co-operate with the railroad people by giving them all the freight possible to handle over the road.

A rail road like any other business cannot continue to exist when it does not from year to year meet expenses and the continuance of this road in this section will certainly depend upon the patronage of the people living along its line.

Rev. J. L. Mullinix of the Brownsville circuit begins a meeting at Bethlehem church next Sunday. The following Sunday, July the thirty first he will begin a meeting at Bethesda. In this meeting the pastor will be assisted by Rev. Mr. Lever a young man recently admitted into the conference and who has been teaching in the Carlisle school at Bamberg.

Most of the crops in this section are doing nicely. There has been marked improvement in corn and it looks now as if there will be plenty of corn made around here for another year.

There is some talk of boll weevil, but so far no perceptible damage has been done in this community by this enemy of cotton.

Splendid rains have fallen in the past ten days doing the crops considerable good.

SNAKE STORIES.

They were gathered in front of Moody's Drug store Thursday evening enjoying after supper cigars and the subject turned to "snakes." It is not a pleasant subject, but a thrilling snake story will hold one's attention. "Very few people know it," remarked one gentleman, "but not more than three out of our whole family of native snakes are poisonous." John Diebler, an authority on snakeology, challenged this statement promptly. "That is all stuff about certain kinds of snakes not being able to kill," replied Mr. Diebler. "They are all dangerous, because if one of any kind ever bites me I'm going to be right down and die on the spot."

"All snakes do not kill with their fangs," remarked Bob Oliver who had joined the crowd a few minutes before. "When I was a boy my father sent me and a small colored boy down in a field on the back of the plantation to do some plowing. It was about eleven o'clock in the morning when the sun was getting hot, and as I plowed up and down the rows I tried to think up some excuse to knock off (ill later in the afternoon. All at once the boy who was plowing in the opposite row gave a yell like a Comanche Indian. He broke into a run and began yelling at the top of his voice. 'Fer de lord's sake, look what a snake!' I looked, and there just in front of me between the rows was the largest and longest snake I ever beheld. I stopped my plow and started toward him, when his snake-shake seemed to give his body a slight shake and before I realized what was happening he was right in front of me not over six or seven feet, with his head and body standing straight up in the air at least four feet high. He had a flat head and to this very day I can see that sharp tongue of his darting in and out of his mouth for several inches as he hissed at me. It was too much and I backed away. When I had put a safe distance between me and that snake I turned round and I believe I broke the world's sprinting record across that field. The negro was nowhere in sight. I came to a rail fence, and it occurred to me that could take a good stout rail and kill that snake. By this time my courage had returned, and seizing a rail I went back and there stood the snake in the same position in which I had left him. His head and body was four feet in the air, supported by the lower end of his body, which formed graceful curls on the ground. He was in a belligerent attitude and as I approached him with the rail I saw that he was prepared for a fight.

"Again and again, like flashes of lightning, his tongue darted in and out. Perspiration began to pop out all over my body in great big drops and the thought flashed through my mind what a fool I was to come back there to do battle with this monster. I approached him cautiously and just as his huge body began to tremble and sway back and forth for what I concluded was to be a leap toward me I came down on him with that rail. The rail broke, but when the battle was over his snakeship lay dead at my feet. I tied a rope around his neck and dragged him home. It was a tough whip, and when my father measured him he turned to me and said, 'Eleven feet and seven inches.'"

The silence that followed the telling of this thrilling snake story was broken by Jno. Diebler. "The man who tells a good snake story," said Mr. Diebler, subjects himself to a certain amount of suspicion, and as I am known as a truthful man I at ways hesitate to relate this thrilling experience. Some years ago when the water in Little Pee Dee was very low I went down to the river to catch some fish in a lake I had been watching for some time. The water in the lake was so low that I went around and took out from under stumps and logs with my hand some of the finest red breast you ever saw. I was having huge sport. It was a pretty sight to see those great big perch almost as large as your two hands floundering about on the bank. I came to an old stump on the edge of the lake, and running my hand under its roots I began to take out some extra large perch. They were so large that I had to exercise extreme caution in gripping them with my hands. All at once one of the largest water moccasins you ever saw stuck his head out to within a few inches of my face. He was a vicious looking snake, but I took my hand and pushed his head gently to one side. Again he swung his head around to a point where it interrupted me in my work and once more I took my hand and pushed his head gently to one side. I related this incident to Mr. W. J. Carter. "Now look out, John," said Mr. Carter, "no one is pushing you." And I replied, "neither was anybody pushing that snake."

The governor has appointed Mr. Jno. D. Coleman of Latta a delegate to the Drainage Conference to be held at St. Paul, Minn., in September. The other delegate from the Pee Dee section is Col. Monroe Johnson of Marion.

Reviews Municipal Affairs.

We wish to submit a few facts for the consideration of the people of Dillon.

When the present city administration took office, an investigation was started in all departments of the government, and conditions found with which the public is more or less familiar. In view of certain conditions which we have found, however, we deem it a duty to the public that they be now acquainted more fully with these facts, and this applies particularly to the lights and water situation.

Upon taking office we found the Public Works Commission, owing approximately \$25,000.00 in current indebtedness. Practically all of this represents floating accounts, past due and upon which one suit has been filed and others threatened. Nothing has been added to this indebtedness since we took office, as this department has been making a little above running expenses.

Mr. Lovejoy, by herculean efforts has been holding the old plant together, however, you may imagine the conditions that exist when the underwriters have cancelled all insurance and refused to reinsure, until a number of improvements have been made.

Confronted with these conditions we decided to get expert advice. We employed The Ryan Engineering Co. to submit their recommendations. This has been done. They recommend the installation of two burning engines, one of 500 horse power, the other 250 horse power, with other equipment that is necessary. They also recommend certain improvements and extensions of the water and sewerage system, all of which will cost a little above \$75,000.00. This report may be seen by any one sufficiently interested to go to the town office.

There is one thing which we think it well to mention just here. The entire personnel of the city administration was in favor of making connection with some power company if such could be done. This was investigated and the nearest approach to an agreement that could be reached was that within two years one of these companies would probably begin the construction of a certain dam. After the completion of this dam the company might possibly consider coming to Dillon, but not within three or four years thereafter. This appeared entirely too remote to give serious consideration. An effort was also made to get current from the Dillon Mills. In order to do this we would be required to buy about \$15,000.00 worth of machinery and pay eight cents per K. W. for current, with no guarantee by them to supply all of the current that we might need. This appeared entirely impracticable to us and no action taken thereon.

We wish to state to the people of Dillon that it is our wish that you thoroughly familiarize yourselves with the condition of the city, do not take too much for granted, but get the facts, and then intelligent action can be taken. This applies not only to the conditions prevailing at the time we assumed office, but since then.

It is the present intention to circulate petitions asking for a vote on a bond issue of \$100,000.00 to be used in paying the floating indebtedness of the Public Works Commission, above referred to, and to install an up-to-date plant as is provided for in the estimate furnished by the Ryan Engineering Company.

It is the opinion of the Public Works Commission, and of the engineering company that the rate for current to the consuming public can easily be reduced from two to three cents per K. W. They also believe that this bond issue will not add to the burden of taxation as they believe they can pay for the plant in full within ten years, or before the same will need any replacements.

We are also informed that we may reasonably figure on a reduction in insurance rates of approximately 25 per cent from those now of force.

We wish this clearly understood. We are not asking that these bonds be voted. We are merely submitting the facts, and the facts present the alternative: Either vote the bonds or go without lights and water.

Those who are supposed to know state that the plant is liable to become useless any day. The boilers have been condemned, and should one of them explode you may well imagine the results.

We deplore the necessity that makes this statement a duty, but we are confronted with facts and theorizing will get us nowhere. We are not responsible for the existing conditions as they were an inheritance. We shall give you an opportunity to say just what you wish done in the premises, and your declaration will meet with our approval.

G. G. McLaurin, Mayor.
L. C. Braddy, Jr.,
Ch'm. Pub. Wks. Commission.
July 16th, 1921.

O. C. Croxton and family have returned home after a two weeks stay in the mountains.

Mrs. W. B. Guill left Saturday morning to visit relatives in Western North Carolina and Virginia. She was accompanied by her granddaughter, Eva Bridgers.